

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 05309 311250Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 AID-05 /100 W
-----021028 311830Z /40

R 310645Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7441
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 5309

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK
SUBJECT: MLA SENTENCES BANK ROBBERS TO HAND AMPUTATION

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 5099, B) ISLAMABAD A-29 (NOTAL)

1. THREE MEN FOUND GUILTY OF BANK ROBBERY BY A SPECIAL MILITARY COURT WERE EACH SENTENCED MAY 29 TO AMPUTATION OF A HAND. THE PRESS REPORTS MAY 30 THAT THE SENTENCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMCNA) BUT NO DATE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR IMPLEMENTATION. TWO OTHER INDIVIDUALS IMPLICATED IN THE CRIME WERE ACQUITTED BY THE SAME COURT.

2. COMMENT: AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THIS IS THE FIRST
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 05309 311250Z

INSTANCE
OF AMPUTATION ACTUALLY BEING DECREED BY A COURT AS A
PUNISHMENT FOR THEFT SINCE THE MLA ANNOUNCED
IT'S INTENTION TO USE
THIS TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC
PUNISHMENT LAST YEAR AFTER SEIZING
POWER. IT WAS MEANT TO BE APPLIED ONLY IN THE CASE OF REPEATED

THEFT AND -- ACCORDING TO THE RULES -- TO BE PERFORMED
SURGICALLY BY A PHYSICIAN AND INSIDE A PRISON. WE HAVE NO
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORDS OF THOSE
CONVICTED.

3. THE PLANNED AMPUTATIONS WILL NO DOUBT DRAW NEW INTERNATIONAL
ATTENTION TO PAKIISTAN'S

HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND SHOULD
BE ADDED TO THE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON WITH THE
PAKISTAN EMBASSY (REFTEL).

4. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON USE OF THIS
FORM OF "TRADITIONAL ISLAMIC" PENISHMENT AND USG REACTION TO IT

ELSEWHERE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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